



## AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MEMORANDUM

October 12, 2018

**TO:** Agricultural Advisory Committee Members (AAC)

**FROM:** Jeremy V. Criss, Director  
Office of Agriculture

**SUBJECT:** October 16, 2018 Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee

The Agricultural Advisory Committee will meet on Tuesday **October 16, 2018 at 7:00 pm.**

**We will be meeting at the Up County Regional Services Center 12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown MD 20874 Room A.**

The agenda is on the next page.

The draft minutes from the September 18, 2018 AAC meetings will be available prior to our meeting.

The other attachments for our meeting will be posted on the Office of Agriculture web site.

<http://montgomerycountymd.gov/AgServices/agboardscommittee.html>

I hope to see you on Tuesday.

\*Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If you need other services or Aids to participate in this activity, please call 301-590-2810.



**Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda**  
**October 16, 2018 Agenda**

1. Call the Meeting to Order and Introductions:
2. Approval of the AAC meeting minutes from September 18, 2018.
3. The MCFB Board of Directors recommended new and alternative funding for Ag Land Preservation will be their number 1 Top Policy along with removing the Loophole where developers avoid paying the State Agricultural Transfer tax.
4. Delegate Eric Luedtke is working to request changes to the County Code Chapter 52- Taxation to remove the loophole where developers avoid paying County Agricultural Transfer Taxes and to make sure all collections are used for agricultural preservation easements. The Delegate is also proposing a change to State Code to remove the loophole for developers avoiding paying the State Agricultural Transfer Tax.
5. The Full Council approved ZTA 18-03 Farm Alcohol Production Facilities on October 2, 2018. This new policy will help create opportunities for farmers planting specialty crops for this type of production. The County Council will act on a Resolution for the Office of Agriculture to remit a biannual report on the status of farm alcohol production.
6. The Agritourism Study Advisory Committee meeting for October 17, 2018 **has been cancelled and will be rescheduled.** The Planning Staff needs additional time to review the recommendations from the consultant that MNCPPC hired.
7. Jeremy received follow up from his August 27, 2018 interview on Updating the 1964 General Plan-Wedges and Corridors Plan Jeremy has identified the following issues for consideration: Construction of an Outer Beltway will create conflicts and inconsistencies with the Wedges and Corridors Plan. New funding for Farmland Preservation is critically needed to help tenant farmers secure title to farms they have leased for several decades, The imbalance of TDRs in Sending and Receiving areas still exists, The MNCPPC must identify more TDR and BLT Receiving Areas. Chapter 52 Taxation discourages farming Down-County, Agritourism including farm alcohol production is growing in the County and these defined uses are not in conflict with the 1980 Master Plan for the Preservation of Agriculture and Rural Open Space. These uses represent opportunities for farmers to generate additional farm income that will help to keep our farms economically viable into the future. High Speed Broadband internet service is no longer a luxury because all citizens and business owners rely upon this service today.
8. Comcast will begin construction of the Sugarland Broadband Pilot next week. The first section along Partnership Road will start and the hope is to have this section completed before Christmas. Comcast is working to schedule construction along the Sugarland Road after the holidays contingent upon receipt of the signed easement from the Byrd Charitable Trust.
9. Next meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee-November 20, 2018 in Germantown. Please note that all future AAC meetings will be held at the Up-County Regional Services Center-12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown, MD 20874 Room A.

**Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

CEWA-October 9-26, 2018

Montgomery Soil Conservation District Bd of Supervisors-October 12, 2018@ 9:00am

Ag Advisory Committee-October 16, 2018 @ 7:00pm-Up County Regional Center

Agritourism Advisory Committee-October 17, 2018 **Meeting has been cancelled**

Annual Banquet for Montgomery County Farm Bureau November 6, 2018@ 6:00pm Ag Center

Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-November 13, 2018 @7:00pm Up County Center

Agricultural Advisory Committee-November 20, 2018@ 7:00pm-Up County Center